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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Yellowstone NATIONAL PARK

FILE NO. 207-02.3

SUPERINTENDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

APRIL 1952

✓	ROGERS	
✓	HAMILTON	
✓	JOFFE	
X	ANDERSON	
	STANTON	
	GABBERT	
	PROFFIT	
	HOTCHKISS	
	MATHEWS	
✓	CONNOR	
✓	BROWN	
	EVANS	
	CHAPLIN	
✓	JAY	
	McCOMAS	
✓	KITTAMS	
✓	WOHLBRECHT	
	ROBINSON	
	WIGGINS	
	McMULLIN	

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NEWTON B. DRURY,
Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16—22371

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Summary of the April 1952 Monthly Narrative Report for
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK

		Page
WEATHER:	Clear, warm, little precipitation.	1
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES:	Rogers trips to Bozeman, to Custer with Joffe, to Billings with Haynes to present Historical Society program, to Butte & Helena with Luce. Joffe to wildlife conference, Livingston; to Travel Counselors School, Helena. Anderson & Miller to Bozeman on wage survey. Robinson & Way to Missoula & Spokane for equipment; Robinson to Kansas City for new sedans. Mattson to Custer & Teton. Northern Pacific group to Old Faithful. Performance ratings. Bechler River included in West Yell. District. Roads west side opened 27th. Hamilton Store opened for lodging & meals. "White Mountain" Smith retired.	1-2
INSPECTIONS:	Hugh Bozarth, Ranger, Olympic, in. Wm. Dunn, in charge Lake Hatchery, in.	2
IN-SERVICE TRAINING:	McComas & Schoder to Glacier conf. Training charts. Weekly News. Staff meetings to meet Hamilton & Brown. Smokejumper film reviewed.	3
PUBLICITY:	Circular & press release on opening dates. 1952 fishing regulations. Elk hunting article in Saturday Evening Post.	3
PLANS, MAPS AND SURVEYS:	Review of master plans, trail system & development plans. Plan for propane heating in Fish & Wildlife Service residence. Plans for bathing facilities addition to O. F. cabin office & for boiler house. Work on Canyon plans. Road center-line spotting.	3-4
MAINTENANCE:	Warm, snow melting. Progress on snow plowing. 3 maintenance crews. Some roads breaking up. Parking area work at Liberty Cap. Treating of poles. Center-line striping.	4
SIGNS:	Canyon area signs; some trail signs.	4
CONSTRUCTION:	Only active projects listed.	4-5

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CONCESSIONERS:	Y.P.Co. mess opened; work on laundry building. Increase in gas prices. R.H. Buck in on way to St. Paul. J. E. Haynes moved in. Y.P.Co. meal rates approved. Dr. Gerlach on vacation. "Accommodations & Services" leaflet. Povah, Helppie & Hamilton crew in. John Nichols in; to return middle of May.	5
RELIGIOUS SERVICES AND CHAPEL USE:	Sunday School, Church, plans for summer program, Easter Sunrise Services.	5-6
INTERPRETIVE SERVICES:	Condon gave various talks with pictures; radio broadcast.	6
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITS:	Improved storage facilities, herbarium, tools. More artifacts received.	6
RESEARCH AND OBSERVATION:	Editing of Brodrick manuscripts on birds & animals. Marler manuscript on Old Faithful. Work on master plan development outline. Chittenden material on stage holdups to be copied. Damage by elk & buffalo to geyser area. Lower temperature of Black Growler. Morning Geyser etc. active.	7
NATURAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION:	"Geyserland" film sent for duplication and sent for placement magnetic sound strip in hopes can obtain magnetic sound projector. Supply paper for publications. Nature Notes. Many sales books received. Mrs. Quist clerk. Marler terminated 26th.	7-8
INCREASE OR DECREASE IN TRAVEL:	3,300 people; 2,195 last April; 400 first day.	8
VISITORS:	Franz Lipp, photographer, in.	8
RANGER SERVICE:	Housecleaning in office, field office supplies, mimeographing forms, manual revisions, training charts, organization charts, elk chart, recruitment rangers, grounds work, ski trip to Canyon, fish planting, etc. Jacobson manned Old Faithful.	8-9
WILDLIFE AND FISH: ELK:	Survey of winter kill. Annual Elk Report; showed 4,300 removed from northern herd, itemized. Approx. 7,700 in herd before calves born.	9
FISH:	Fish planting.	9
BISON:	Aerial count, total 976.	10
FOREST FIRE PROTECTION:	Chapman to meeting with Forest Service re fire-fighter rates; 4.2% increases. Conferred re. parachuting. Arrangements re fire weather.	10

		Page
BLISTER RUST CONTROL:	Chapman to Spokane re program and to bring back stoves & cots.	10
WOOD UTILIZATION:	Inspection where trees had been cut.	10
BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION:	Inspection Y.P.Co. buildings, Gardiner. Govt. buildings at Lamar being inspected.	11
TRAILS:	Difficulty recruiting skilled trail crew & foreman. 800 trail markers cut and painted.	11
ACCIDENTS:	2 accidents on Gallatin road. No injuries to personnel.	11
LAW ENFORCEMENT:	No Commissioner yet appointed.	11
DEATHS:	E. A. Allan, retired Powerhouse Operator, died of heart attack. Wm. Ferguson, Manager Montana Automobile Club, etc. died of heart attack.	11-12
PERSONNEL:	Warren F. Hamilton, Asst. Supt., arrived. Marjorie Proper, seas. Clerk-Typist, terminated. Charles E. Moore appointed Project Clerk, GS-4. Betty Lee Proznick returned from leave without pay. Harry V. Reynolds transferred to Air Rescue Squadron. Otto M. Brown, Chief Ranger, arrived. Betty Jane Thomas, seas. Clerk-Typist, appointed.	12
MISCELLANEOUS:	F.E.U. meeting; Condon showed Yellowstone movie. A.F.G.E. meeting.	12

Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
YELLOWSTONE PARK, WYO.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

May 8, 1952

Memorandum

To: The Director

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Monthly Report for April 1952

Following is the report of activities for Yellowstone National Park during the month of April 1952:

Weather Conditions. April was characterized by beautiful weather this year. Only 7 days were recorded as cloudy, 3 were listed as partly cloudy, and the remaining 20 days were bright, warm and clear. Precipitation totaled only 0.31 of an inch, which is 0.68 below a seven year average of 0.99 of an inch. The snow had melted from the Mammoth area by the 15th and only a few patches of ice in ravines and shaded spots remain at this writing. The maximum temperature of 73° was registered on the 27th and the minimum temperature of 12° was recorded on the 1st and 9th.

Comparative precipitation totals for April in past years are as follows: 1951 - 1.44", 1950 - 1.79", 1949 - 0.76", 1948 - 1.17", 1947 - 1.09", 1946 - 0.36".

The warm weather facilitated the snow removal program and much of the cleared road dried quickly.

Special Activities. Superintendent Rogers made trips to Bozeman on April 1 and 22 to visit the library there in connection with his project covering the legislative history of the areas administered by the National Park Service; a trip was made to Custer Battlefield on April 17 with Administrative Assistant Joffe to inspect the new museum there and to discuss area matters with the Superintendent, returning on the 18th; a trip was made to Billings on April 26 with Mr. J. E. Haynes to present the program for the Yellowstone Historical Society, returning on the 27th; and a trip was made to Butte and Helena on April 30 with Superintendent Luce of Custer Battlefield to make arrangements for the program dedicating the museum there to be held June 25. They expected to return May 1.

Administrative Assistant Joffe went to Livingston on April 5 to discuss the Northern elk problem with State and Government officials and to meet with the Southwestern District of the Montana Wildlife

Federation on April 6 for a discussion of this problem. He returned on the 6th. A trip was made to Helena on April 28 to attend the Montana Travel Counselors School sponsored by the Montana Highway Department and to discuss park operations for the summer and to make arrangements for handling publicity for the Associated Press and United Press. He returned on the 30th.

Chief Clerk Anderson and Shop Foreman Miller went to Bozeman on April 4 in connection with the wage board survey.

Mechanical Supervisor Robinson and District Park Ranger Way went to Missoula and Spokane on April 7 to pick up surplus equipment and return it to the park. Mr. Robinson went to Kansas City on April 14 to obtain delivery of two Chevrolet sedans.

Resident Landscape Architect Mattson made a trip to Custer Battlefield on April 14 and to Grand Teton National Park on the 28th.

The Northern Pacific Railway brought in a party of 38 people on April 18 for a trip to Old Faithful, this being the first party to visit the area for the 1952 season.

The March 31 performance ratings were completed during the month and distributed to employees concerned.

On April 24 a memorandum was issued consolidating the Bechler River District with the West Yellowstone District, the District Park Ranger assigned to West Yellowstone being in charge of the enlarged district. Hereafter the Bechler River District headquarters will be referred to as the Bechler River Ranger Station.

The roads on the west side of the park from Mammoth to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone were opened to public travel on April 27. The Hamilton Store at Old Faithful was opened to take care of overnight guests and serve meals. This service will be available until May 10 when the cafeteria and tourist cabins at Old Faithful will open.

Charles J. "White Mountain" Smith, Superintendent of Zion and Bryce Canyon National Parks, retired at the close of business April 30 at the age of 70. Mr. Smith was a stagecoach driver in Yellowstone in 1908 and served for a number of years in this park.

Inspections. Hugh Bozarth, Park Ranger, Olympic National Park, was a visitor at Mammoth on April 4 while on vacation.

William Dunn, Fish and Wildlife Service, in charge of the Lake Hatchery, arrived in the park April 14, expecting to take a crew to Lake as soon as the roads were opened to that point.

In-Service Training. Assistant Chief Ranger McComas and Park Ranger Schoder attended the Glacier Park Ranger Conference in Glacier National Park held during the week of April 20.

Charts to be used in in-service training for the protection division were prepared during the month.

The Yellowstone Weekly News was issued each Thursday with a view to keeping employees, concessioners and others currently informed of park happenings.

A staff meeting was held on April 3 to acquaint park personnel with the new Assistant Superintendent, Warren F. Hamilton, and another similar meeting was held on the 23rd for acquainting park personnel with the new Chief Ranger, Otto M. Brown.

A smokejumper film entitled "Telephone Creek" issued by the Department of Aeronautics, State of Idaho, was reviewed by park personnel on April 25.

Publicity. An information circular with regard to the opening of roads and accommodations for the 1952 season was issued on April 10 for general distribution.

On April 22 a press release was issued and sent to the park's mailing list on the opening of the roads and accommodations for the 1952 season.

The 1952 fishing regulations, which were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on April 9, were published and released for distribution on April 23.

A very interesting article on elk hunting in Park County, Montana, north of the park, entitled "And They Call This Sport" by Edmund Christopherson with several pictures by Ernst Peterson appeared in the April 12 issue of the Saturday Evening Post and resulted in much comment. Messrs. Christopherson and Peterson of Missoula visited the park and Gardiner in early January to gather material for the article.

Plans, Maps and Surveys. Several master plans were reviewed by the park staff and returned to the Region Two Office with recommendations for approval by the Superintendent. The trail system was checked and returned to the Region Two Office for final check. The general development plans are now being reviewed by the park staff.

The Fish and Wildlife Service has submitted a plan for propane heating of the large residence at the Lake Fish Hatchery, which plan was submitted to the Region Two Office on April 15.

The Yellowstone Park Company submitted plans for the addition of bathing facilities to the Old Faithful cabin office building, which were submitted to the Region Two Office April 4 together with request for reapproval of boiler house plans YEL-8076A and YEL-8099.

Assistant Engineers Thuring and Rowe spent most of the month on plans for Canyon. About 15 miles of road center line were spotted and 9 miles striped.

Maintenance. The month was quite warm and the melting of the snow pack was very rapid. Very little precipitation fell during the month.

Snow plowing was continuous seven days a week and very good progress was made. There was very little hard packed snow to contend with but by the end of the month the plows were just reaching the deep snow belt. Five plows are being used. The plows reached Norris on April 5, Madison Junction April 9, Canyon on the 13th, and Old Faithful on the 14th. The road from Mammoth to Old Faithful and West Thumb was opened to public travel on the 27th. At the end of the month the plows were operating east of Lake and south of Thumb.

Small maintenance crews are located at Mammoth, Madison and Gallatin. Others will open soon.

The Gallatin and the Mammoth to Tower Fall sections of road were breaking up quite badly. Other sections open at this time are in good condition.

A small crew made good progress in shaping the parking areas at Liberty Cap and another small crew is peeling and treating guard rail logs and posts.

Nine miles of center-line stripe were put down.

Signs. Composition details have been prepared for all of the signs which will be used in the Canyon area with but few exceptions. This also included a number of trail signs.

New Construction. All road construction projects remained closed during the month. The surfacing contractors on the south entrance approach road plan to get to this project just as soon as snow conditions permit. The road north of Moran Junction was covered with snow at the end of the month.

All other projects except the following were inactive during the month due to winter closedown of work:

Account 233.01, Campground rehabilitation throughout the park.--Logs for campground tables and seats were peeled and treated. Forty additional fireplaces were assembled.

Account 332.10, Fire Meter, Mammoth.--Job completed during month.

Account 234, Mammoth Museum Rehabilitation.--Job 95 per cent complete; small amount of painting to finish.

Concessioners. The Yellowstone Park Company opened its Mammoth mess on April 1 when work was resumed on the laundry building.

Advice was received on April 1 that the Washington Office had approved an increase in the price of gasoline in the park to 32¢ per gallon for Regular and 34¢ per gallon for Ethyl.

R. H. Buck, Assistant Manager, Hotel Division, Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on April 4 enroute to St. Paul where he expected to open an office for the recruitment of personnel for the hotels for the summer.

Mr. J. E. Haynes moved to his summer office at Mammoth on April 11.

On April 14 the Washington Office advised that the recommended changes in the 1952 meal and cafeteria rates for the Yellowstone Park Company were approved and sent to the O.P.S. for thirty days.

Dr. Jim Gerlach, Resident Physician, left the park on April 21 for a month's vacation on the west coast. Nurse Marie Lebeis was placed in charge during Dr. Gerlach's absence.

The Yellowstone Park Company's print shop at Mammoth issued its new 1952 "Accommodations and Services" leaflet on April 17.

Mr. Trev Povah, Manager of the Yellowstone Park Service Stations and Vice-President of Hamilton Stores, Inc., arrived in the park on April 23. Gar Helppie, Manager of Hamilton Stores, Inc., arrived with a crew for Old Faithful on April 24.

John Q. Nichols, Vice-President of the Yellowstone Park Company, arrived in the park on April 24 and departed for California on the 28th, expecting to return about the middle of May.

Religious Services and Chapel Use. The Yellowstone Park Chapel was used for the regular community Sunday School service at 10:30 each Sunday, with the children of the community serving as leaders.

On April 6 Rev. E. A. Syms of Livingston, Montana, conducted the inter-denominational Protestant services at 7:30 p.m.

Yellowstone Park, Wyoming

The Yellowstone Park Church Committee met on April 8 and after considerable discussion decided that the Easter services should be handled by the group who has been directing the Mammoth-Gardiner church services program for the past winter. At this same meeting it was decided that the religious services program for the 1952 season should follow the same pattern as that for 1951. Following this meeting correspondence was prepared for the superintendent's signature to the Princeton Seminary relative to the student ministers.

The Yellowstone Park Chapel was decorated for the special Easter sunrise services and this was held on Easter Sunday, April 13 at 6:00 a.m. The Rev. Arthur W. Seebart of Livingston, Montana, preached the sermon and music was provided by the Gardiner-Mammoth adult choir and the Yellowstone Park Sunday School choir. These services were well attended and enjoyed by many people, and the weather for this program was ideal.

Interpretive Services. Chief Park Naturalist Condon presented a number of talks on the park with pictures during the month. The first of these was given to the residents of Mammoth on April 7. Others included the Livingston Rotary Club on April 14, the Lincoln School and Lutheran Brotherhood in Livingston on April 21, the Anaconda High School, Anaconda 5th and 6th Grades, and Anaconda Sportsmen Club on April 23, and the Butte Central High School and the L.D.S. Church and general public in Butte on April 24. The majority of these programs were given in conjunction and in cooperation with the Montana Conservation Council as part of Montana Conservation Week and the major emphasis in the discussion of Yellowstone was the importance of conserving the resources which provide inspirational values for people. Mr. Condon also prepared a 15-minute radio broadcast which was transmitted over Station KOPR, Butte.

Museum Activities and Exhibits. In the museum basement considerable improvement of storage facilities has been made by the completion of the set of storage cabinets, the installation of a new section to the negative file cabinets, and the rearranging and painting of this entire unit, and by the installation of a new case for use in enlarging the Yellowstone Park herbarium.

Considerable work has been accomplished in setting up the power tools and arranging hand tools and other facilities in the museum work shop.

The Yellowstone Park museums have received in the past a number of historically significant artifacts from the George Ash collection and during April we received an additional number of pictures, documents and other artifacts of this collection from Mr. Eivind Scoyen. A box of old pictures on the park which are untitled and undated was turned in to the museum by Mr. Clarence Scoyen. These were the property of Mr. William J. O'Loughlin.

Research and Observation. Considerable time was spent reviewing literature and finishing up the editing of Harold Brodrick's manuscripts on the birds of Yellowstone and animals of Yellowstone.

Mr. George D. Marler turned in his manuscript on the Old Faithful Geyser near the end of the month and this manuscript is now in the process of review.

Considerable work has been done in the interpretive section of the master plan development outline of the park which will be transmitted to the Regional Office for use by the Regional Naturalist in the preparation of the interpretive section of the master plan development outline for the park.

The material accumulated by Hiram M. Chittenden on stage hold-ups in the park from which he planned to write a chapter for his book has been on loan to the park so that copies of it might be prepared for our historical files.

Considerable damage has been done to many of the features in the Lower Geyser Basin by the concentration of bison and elk in that area during the past winter. There are several places where the animals have apparently concentrated and have broken down the sinter. In some instances they have pawed holes and in the Fountain group they have used the thermal area as a thoroughfare for travel and a definite path has been tromped across the thermal area runoffs.

An interesting observation was made of a pronounced change in the temperature of the Black Growler Steam Vent. This vent is reported in literature to have a temperature of 280°F, yet temperatures taken of recent years have indicated it much below that. The temperature taken in November 1951 indicated a temperature of 204°F and one taken in April 1952 indicated a drop to 201°F. In addition to this change there is a much greater volume of water being ejected from this vent than has been the case in the past.

An eruption of Morning Geyser in the Lower Geyser Basin was observed on April 24. The Morning Geyser, Fountain Geyser and Clepsydra Geyser were in a very active phase two years ago and during the 1951 season were dormant. Apparently at some time during the earlier months of 1952 these geysers have erupted. They seem to be again going into an active phase. Most of the eruptions were to a height of only 12 to 15 feet but one exceptionally powerful jet played to an estimated height of 75 feet. Following the eruption the water level in the main vent of the Morning Geyser dropped to about 15 feet below the surface while the water level in the Fountain Geyser was only down about 13 inches. This geyser group put on quite a spectacular display in 1950.

Natural History Association. The Yellowstone Library and Museum Association sent a 16mm colored motion picture film entitled "Geyserland" to Hollywood for duplication of this film. It proved to

be 1,754 feet long and two copies of it were obtained. These were returned on April 25 and immediately sent to the Bell and Howell Co. for the placement of a magnetic sound strip in hopes that we will be able to obtain a 16mm magnetic sound motion picture projector and place sound on these films for use in the interpretive program.

During the month the Association purchased a large supply of paper for publishing the Yellowstone Nature Notes and also a special stock of paper to reproduce the Fur Traders and Trappers again by multilith for sale.

The March-April Yellowstone Nature Notes were edited, multilithed and placed in the mail by April 29.

The Association during the month has received a large portion of its book stock for summer sale and these included large numbers of Cubby Books and Yellowstone Geysers from the University of New Mexico Press. The Association purchased all of the Yellowstone Plant Books which the Superintendent of Documents had on hand, and in addition purchased all of the Custer Battlefield National Monument Handbooks which the Superintendent of Documents had. A large shipment of U.S.G.S. topographic maps were received and book stocks are now being prepared for distribution to the field.

The Association continued to employ Mrs. Alice Quist as clerk and she is now working five afternoons per week. Mr. George D. Marler was employed by the Association up to April 26 at which time his services were terminated and it is anticipated that when he returns to the park in May he will be employed as a seasonal park naturalist.

Increase or Decrease in Travel. This April a total of 3,300 people entered the park as compared to 2,195 in April of 1951. The increase is probably due to the opening of the roads one day earlier to Old Faithful.

The highway from Mammoth to Old Faithful and West Yellowstone was opened to the public on April 27. Approximately 400 first entry cars entered the park by the North and West Entrances on the 27th. Last year the road opened in a similar manner on April 28.

Visitors. Franz Lipp, well-known photographer who has been photographing in Yellowstone for a number of years and who last summer had a display of some of his pictures at the Chicago Art Institute, arrived in the park April 13 for a few days visit.

Ranger Service. Spring housecleaning continued in the Chief Ranger's Office. Much work was done in the basement in conjunction with field station supplies to be used during the summer season. Considerable time was devoted to mimeographing forms for summer use. The revisions for the Checking Station and Report Manuals were written and will be mimeographed for distribution in May. Progress was made in the revision of the Park Ranger's Administrative Manual.

Charts to be used in in-service training were designed and finished and organization charts for the Protection Division personnel were developed in response to a request from the Region Two Office. A chart was also made to show the fluctuation of the northern elk herd since 1942.

District Ranger Jacobson moved to his summer quarters at Old Faithful on April 28 so that the public might be served during the early pre-season period.

Much work was done in revamping and repairing the horse trailers and surplus equipment was acquired which will be made into bear-trap trailers.

Nearly all of the seasonal rangers for which money is available have been recruited for the summer. One man was hired to start work on the Mammoth grounds beginning the 28th. Removal of the protection fences around the trees and shrubbery was started immediately.

Two men left Mammoth on April 1 on a ski trip to Canyon for the express purpose of shoveling Government buildings in the area. These men also read the snow survey course and checked the condition of the buildings at Norris.

Fish planting was supervised by rangers on the 24th, 29th and 30th, all plants being made in the Madison River.

Wildlife and Fish Cultural Activities. ELK. A survey of natural mortalities suffered by the Northern Yellowstone elk herd was completed during April but much of the winter range area was not covered due to unfavorable conditions for travel. It has been estimated that natural mortalities will total about 500 animals by early June. This total includes all estimated deaths for the past year not including calves which died before the fall period of 1951. The annual elk report, submitted on April 24, shows that 4,300 elk were removed from the Northern Yellowstone herd from the fall of 1951 through the spring of 1952, as follows:

Hunting in Park County, Montana	3,198
Scientific specimens.	4
Accidentally killed at traps.	35
Shipped alive for transplanting or propagation . .	536
Estimated natural mortalities including starvation, old age, etc.	500
Total..	4,300

The herd is expected to contain approximately 7,700 animals by early summer before calves, born this year, are added to the herd.

FISH. The Fish and Wildlife Service fisheries station at Bozeman, Montana, provided 30,545 #3 brown trout which were planted in

the Madison River on April 24. The Ennis fisheries station commenced delivery of yearling rainbow trout for the Madison River on April 29 and 11,000 were planted the last two days of the month. The balance of 19,000 of this species and size will be planted early in May.

BISON. Aerial counts of the interior bison herds were made on April 4 and bison in the Lamar area were counted from the ground during late March. Results of these counts are shown as follows: Hayden Valley 386, Pelican Valley 251, Lower Firehole River Area 196, Lamar River Area 143, Total 976.

It is probable that natural mortalities during the winter and spring were high in the interior herds. Snow depths were above normal over the winter ranges of these animals and it is thought that starvation may have effected some reduction of the herds. Investigation of the losses will be deferred until early summer when ground surveys can be made.

Forest Fire Protection. Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman attended the meeting sponsored by R-1 of the U. S. Forest Service at Missoula, Montana, for the purpose of making recommendations for fire fighter wage rates for the coming season. Following a general discussion, it was agreed that a 4.2 per cent increase would be applied to each individual fire-fighter rate in effect during the season of 1951.

While in Missoula Mr. Chapman conferred with Mr. L. M. Stewart who is in charge of the Parachute Project. It is mutally understood that we will proceed along the same course as last year in activating our Smokejumper Unit for the coming season. Three of last year's smokejumpers are returning to Yellowstone, the fourth being in the armed forces.

After considerable correspondence with Gallatin National Forest officials it has been decided to furnish them with the fire weather measurements from our Mt. Holmes Station and in turn they will furnish us with data from their West Yellowstone Station. This will give us a chance to eliminate our West Yellowstone Station upon receiving concurrence from the Weather Bureau at Boise. This seems a logical arrangement, for at present two agencies are operating fire weather stations in the same area.

Blister Rust Control. Assistant Chief Ranger Chapman made a trip to Spokane, Washington, during the first week in April to confer with Bureau of Entomology officials regarding the Blister Rust Program for the coming season and to bring back stoves and cots for use in the Carnelian Creek Camp.

Wood Utilization. An inspection of the Pebble Creek area was made to determine the amount of cleanup which will be left for the Engineering Division to do this spring. Approximately 180 hazardous

trees were eliminated along the highway. This work was done while considerable snow was on the ground with the understanding that the stumps would be cut at ground level and the slash removed as soon as the snow left the area. The material will be used for guard rails.

Building Fire Protection. Inspection of Yellowstone Park Company buildings in Gardiner was completed during the month and a copy of the findings and recommendations was submitted to the Company President.

Inspection of Government buildings is underway in the Lamar District.

Trails. Positions on the trail crew were accepted by three applicants during the month. Like most of the applicants, these men are unskilled in trail work but were selected for their apparent adaptability to living in remote areas under adverse conditions. It is practically impossible to find experienced trail men for the wages being paid. By the end of the month a suitable trail crew foreman had not been employed. Capable men are reluctant to work in remote areas and live under primitive conditions when they can make more money on the road crew or in other forms of employment.

800 orange colored trail markers were cut and painted. Most of the park trails need marking and it is planned to do much of this work during the coming summer.

Accidents and Public Safety. One Class B vehicle accident was reported this month, although the collision actually occurred March 27. Visitors were involved and the accident happened on the Gallatin road. Icy road surface and obscured vision were given as the cause of the accident and both drivers were probably at fault.

One Class A vehicle accident was also reported and it occurred on the Gallatin road also. An oil tanker tractor-trailer side-swiped a visitor car at the Horseshoe Curve or "Devil's Elbow". The burden of fault appeared to rest on the truck driver.

No injuries to personnel were reported this month.

Law Enforcement. No cases of violation were reported this month. No U. S. Commissioner has yet been appointed to succeed Commissioner T. Paul Wilcox.

Deaths. Mr. E. A. Allan, who retired as a Powerhouse Operator on March 31, 1950, after some 32 years of service in Yellowstone, died of a heart attack at the home of his son in Hollywood, California, on April 6 at the age of 72. Funeral services were held in the Masonic Hall in Livingston on April 12.

Yellowstone lost a fine friend and one of its staunchest supporters and boosters in the passing on April 28 in Helena of William G. "Bill" Ferguson of a heart attack. Mr. Ferguson was Manager of the Montana Automobile Club and Secretary of the Pacific Northwest Travel Association and probably did more than any other Montanan in encouraging visitors to come to Montana, Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks.

Personnel. Warren F. Hamilton arrived in the park on April 3 from Tupelo, Mississippi, and entered on duty as Assistant Superintendent, GS-12, vice Fred T. Johnston, by reassignment and change of headquarters from Natchez Trace Parkway, effective March 30, 1952.

The services of Clerk-Typist Marjorie C. Proper were terminated at the close of business April 4.

Charles E. Moore entered on duty as Project Clerk, GS-4, vice William K. Masters on April 7.

Betty Lee Proznick returned to work in the Naturalist Division on April 7 from annual and leave without pay since November 9.

Park Ranger Harry V. Reynolds, Jr. was separated by transfer to the Air Rescue Squadron, McCall, Idaho, at the close of business April 11.

Otto M. Brown, new Chief Ranger, transferred from Olympic National Park vice Curtis K. Skinner, arriving in the park on April 17 with Mrs. Brown. He was entered on duty beginning April 13 by promotion (indefinite) and transfer.

Betty Jane Thomas entered on duty as seasonal Clerk-Typist, GS-3 on April 14.

Miscellaneous. The regular monthly meeting of Local 465 of the Federal Employees Union was held in the Canteen on April 7. Following the regular business meeting, Park Naturalist Condon showed a movie film of the park.

The regular monthly meeting of the American Federation of Government Employees was held in the Canteen on April 21.

Edmund B. Rogers
Superintendent

In duplicate
cc Region Two, in quintuple
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